

09/663,484 Amendment

Amendments to Specification

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11-29-06

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 4 of page ²1 as follows:

There are several problems with the techniques described above. First, if the data is hard coded into the software or the class definitions associated with the software, the software must be recompiled every time a change is made to the metadata. This can be problematic, because it is often necessary to support multiple versions of the software and hardware associated with the router or service processing switch. These multiple versions arise due to changes in product versions, changes in supported features, and changes in hardware versions. In previous system systems, these changes require required recompiling and rebuilding the software, or reinterpreting the IDL to produce new source code that must be built into the system. Furthermore, because the source code changes, it is necessary to retest the software that uses the metadata.

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Please replace the paragraph starting at line 14 of page ²7 as follows:

~~As a result, there is a need in the art for the present invention.~~

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 18 of page 7 as follows:

In some embodiments of the invention, [[At]] at runtime, the service management system or other application desiring to read the metadata will be told of the location of the meta information through environment variables as is known in the art. In [[on]] one particular embodiment, the variables are the COSS_METAINFO_DIR and COSS_METAINFO_SUBSETS_FILE environment variables or COSS configuration file entries.